Chief Minister's meeting on polio

*143. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of those States which have seen a recent resurgence of polio cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cases of polio have been reported from many parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the cases of polio that have been reported, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On 23rd September, 2006, Union Health Minister had convened a meeting of the Health Ministers of polio affected States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand to discuss the issues and action required by the State Governments for achieving the goal of zero polio transmission at the earliest. The Health Ministers of the States stated that they were committed to the eradication of polio from the country and assured that necessary action would be taken by them to implement good quality immunization rounds during the upcoming polio immunization campaigns.

(c) and (d) Pulse Polio Immunization program was launched in 1995. Since then, there had been a decline in the number of reported polio cases as well as geographical area in which the virus was in cirulation. In 2005, the circulation was limited to 35 districts mainly in western Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and the number of polio cases were 66-an all time low. An outbreak, however, took oplace in Moradabad and JP Nagar in Western Uttar Pradesh, which has spread to other parts of the State and the country resulting in 548 cases so far. The State-wise polio cases reported during 2006 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Number of polio cases reported from States as on 24th November, 2006

States/UTs	2003	2004	2005	2006*
Uttar Pradesh	88	82	29	457
Bihar	18	39	30	43
Uttaranchal	0	1	1	13
Haryana	3	2	1	12
Delhi	3	2	1	5
Punjab	1	0	1	4
Maharashtra	3	3	0	4
Gujarat	3	0	1	3
Madhya Pradesh	11	0	0	3
Jharkhand	1	0	2	1
West Bengal	28	2	0	1
Chandigarh	0	0	0	1
Assam	1	0	0	1
Karnataka	36	1	0	
Andhra Pradesh	21	1	0	
Tamil Nadu	2	1	0	
Rajasthan	4	0	0	
Orissa	2	0	0	
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	
Kerala	0	0	0	
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	
D & N Haveli	0	0	0	
Goa	0	0	0	
Pondicherry	0	0	0	
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	

States/UTs	2003	2004	2005	2006*
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
Manipur	0	0	0	
Meghalaya	0	0	0	
Mizoram	0	0	0	
Nagaland	0	0	0	
Sikkim	0	0	0	
Tripura	0	0	0	
TOTAL:	225	134	66	548

*Date as on 24th November, 2006.

Brain drain from Railways

†*144. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the briliant and competent officers of Railways are leaving Railways in order to join the private sector companies;

(b) whether major projects like dedicated freight corridor are likely to be affected by this brain drain;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Railways to prevent such exodus;

(d) whether Railways have lowered the age limit for the Divisional Railway Manager from 52 years to 50 years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) There are a few instances of Railway officers who have resigned/taken voluntary retirement from Railway service for personal reasons. As per available records, three offricers have been allowed by the Government during the last 2 years and 10 months to take up commercial employment. However,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.